157. Advancement of the Cheramars and other depressed classes.

MR. N. J. JOSHUA (*Nominated*), speaking in Malayalam, first thanked the Government for having granted full fee concessions to the Cheramar and other depressed class pupils. Those concessions, however, were not in themselves sufficient to help the depressed classes to attain progress in education. The parents of these pupils could not afford to purchase text books and slates and to provide noon-day meals. In Mysore and Cochin, besides granting fee concession, the Government provided the above concessions also to the pupils belonging to the depressed classes. The prosperity of a country depended on the uplift of its depressed classes and any amount of money spent for the purpose would not be a waste. Hence more facilities should be afforded by the Government for the encouragement of education among the depressed classes by granting the above concessions.

No fee concessions were now allowed to the Cheramar students in the Colleges. There were only very few students among them who managed to come up for the College course. The Government had granted half-fee concession to the Muslim students, even though they belonged to well-to-do families. The concession to the students belonging to the depressed classes should be granted for the College courses and this should be continued till there were at least fifty graduates in each of the depressed communities.

Further, the Government should encourage collegiate education among the depressed classes by the award of scholarships. In each Division there should be ten scholarships of the value of Rs. 7 per mensem, for the Intermediate course and five scholarships at Rs. 15 per mensem, for the B. A. course. These scholarships should be designated "Cheramar scholarships" and "Sambavar scholarships" and granted in the same way as the "Mahomedan scholarships."

Measures should be taken for the industrial advancement of the depressed classes, by reserving 50 per cent. of the seats in the school of Arts, the Industrial schools and the Agricultural schools of the State, for the members of the depressed classes. They should also be encouraged by the grant of scholarships.

Grants-in-aid should be sanctioned to the day schools and night schools started by the depressed classes, as soon as not less than 15 students joined each school. These schools should also be exempted from the operation of the departmental rules regarding buildings.

Cottage industries should be encourged among the depressed classes. Young men and women of the community should be selected and given training in cottage industries. After training they should be deputed to the villages to popularise such industries. The materials required for the starting of the industries should be granted free by the Government. Grants should also be given to properly conducted industrial institutions. A portion of the allotment set apart for the sake of the depressed classes in the annual budget could be utilised for this purpose.

In the matter of recruitment to the public service, the Government very often hesitated to accept the principle of communal representation. As a result, many of the unrepresented communities suffered very much. The depressed classes were affected most by this. But it was consoling to find that the Government had accepted the principle of communal representation in public service. As Hindus are classified into Brahmins, Nayars, Vellalas, Ezhavas and others for purposes of appointment, similarly the Christians should also be classified into Syrians, Nadars, Cheramars, Sambavars, etc. Then only the members of the depressed classes would get the benefit of communal representation. Applications for appointments from the members of communities under-represented in public service should be given preference and till those communities got due representation, on the basis of their numerical strength, the members of the over-represented communities should not be entertained in public service, as was done in Mysore. The age-limit for entertainment in service should also be raised from 25 to 28, as was done by the Mysore Government.

The villages occupied by the depressed classes were insanitary. They also did not get sufficient medical relief. Many of them fell a pray to epidemics every year. The Medical Board and the Sanitary Commissioner should be instructed to inspect the places and do the needful in the matter.

The Government should pay special attention to give due representation to the Cheramars in the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly, in the Legislative Council, and in the Municipalities. The present practice of nominating to the Sri Mulam Popular Assembly members of the community who were not interested in the welfare of the community or who had no knowledge of the condition of the community was quite undesirable. In the matter of nomination, the Government should correspond with the Executive Committee of the well-recognised organisations of the community, such as the Cheramar *Maha Jana Sangham* and men selected and recommended by such bodies should be nominated as members by the Government. It was regrettable that no member of the community had been nominated to the Legislative Council ever since its constitution. A member was nominated from the Arayas who occupied the lowest rank in point of numerical strength and two members from among the Sambavars, who numbered only half as much as the Cheramars. Hence, in the next Legislative Council, a member should be nominated from the Cheramars, who numbered not less than five lakhs.

The depressed classes were not deriving the full benefit from the Co-operative Department, which had been mainly constituted for their sake. Nearly 120 societies had been started among the Cheramars as a result of the endeavours of Mr. N. John Joseph, the General Secretary of the Cheramar *Maha Jana Sangham*, and many more societies were in experimental stage. The Cheramars should be better encouraged so far as the co-operative movement was concerned, by appointing members of the community as Co-operative Inspectors and Supervisors.

In the strength of communal societies, the Cheramars ranked third in the State. Additional Group Secretaries should he appointed for the better working of the societies.

In Mysore, Baroda, and Cochin, substantial amounts were provided in the annual budgets for the purpose of establishing colonies for the depressed classes, for sinking wells and tanks for their use, and for their industrial advancement. But in Travancore, the Government did nothing in the matter. In future budgets, a substantial amount should be provided for the sake of the depressed cla ses. The depressed classes, especially those in Kuttanad, found very great difficulty in procuring house-sites. Hence a model colony should be established at a central place in the area comprised in survey numbers 32/7, 32/8 and 32/9 in the Prakkad *pa'huthi*, Ambalapuzha taluk, the need for registering which in the names of the members of the depressed classes had been urged in his previous representation.

Lastly, the member u.ged the necessity for introducing legislation, regarding succession among the Cheramars, and said that the members of the community were *Makkathayis* from very ancient days and tha both the Christians and Hindus among them preferred *Makkathayam*

DEWAN'S REPLY: നിങ്ങൾ പ്രതിപാദിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സംഗതികളിൽ മിക്കതും മുമ്പേ തന്നെ ഇവിടെ നിവേദനത്തിനു വിഷയമായിട്ടുള്ളതാണു്. അതിലേക്കു ഗവണ്മെൻറിൽ നിന്നും ഓരോ മറുപടിയും പറഞ്ഞിട്ടുണ്ടു്. നിങ്ങൾ പറഞ്ഞതു് നിങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിൽപെട്ടവക്കു കാളേജിൽ സ്കാളർഷിപ്പു നൽകണമെന്നാണു്. ഇപ്പോൾ തന്നെ ചില സ്കാളർഷിപ്പു കൊടുക്കുന്നുണ്ടു്. അധഃകൃതവർഗ്ഗക്കാർക്കു പ്രത്യേകമായിട്ടു സ്കാളർഷിപ്പുണ്ടു്. അതിനും പുറമേ എല്ലാ സമുദായത്തിലുമുള്ള വിദ്യാർത്ഥികൾക്കു ലഭിക്കത്തക്കവണ്ണമുള്ള സ്കാളർഷിപ്പും ഉണ്ടു്. എന്നാൽ അതിലേക്കു ചില എക്സാമിനേഷനും ടെസ്റ്റും വച്ചിട്ടുണ്ടു്. അധഃകൃതക്കായി നിശ്ചയിച്ചിട്ടുള്ള സ്കാളർഷിപ്പു അധഃകൃതക്കല്ലാതെ മറാക്കും കൊടുക്കയില്ല. പിന്നീടു മിഡിൽ സ്കൂൾക്ലാസ്സുകൾക്കും സ്കാളർഷിപ്പു കൊടുക്കണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞ ഭാഗം ഗവണ്മെൻറിൻെറ ആലോചനയിൽ ഇരിക്കുകയാണു്.

അമ്പലപ്പുഴ ഒരു കാളനി (Colony) വേണമെന്നു നിങ്ങൾ പറയുകയും അതിലേക്കു ഒരു സ്ഥലം സൂചിപ്പിക്കയും ചെയ്തു. അതിനെപ്പറ്റി ആലോചിക്കാം.

MEMBER: ആ കാളനി മഹാറാണി റീജൻറു തിരുമനസ്സിലെ തിരുനാമധേയത്തിൽ സ്ഥാപിക്കണം.

DEWAN : ആ കാളനി ഉണ്ടാകുമ്പോൾ ആലോചിക്കാം.

പിന്നീട് നിങ്ങളുടെ ദായക്രമത്തിനു ഒരു നിയമം വേണമെന്നു പറഞ്ഞു. അതിനെ സംബന്ധിച്ചു നിങ്ങളുടെ സമുദായത്തിന്റെയൊ തുവായ അഭിപ്രായമെന്താണെന്നറിയുന്നതിനു പേഷ്കാരന്മാരെ മുമതല പ്പെടുത്തിയിട്ടുണ്ട്. അവരുടെ റിപ്പോർട്ട് വന്നിട്ടുണ്ട്. ശേഷം സംഗതികം ആലോചിക്കാം.

[Most of the points in your representation have been raised before and replied to. There are even now some scholarships tenable in Colleges. There are both open and closed scholarships and the latter are reserved for members of the educationally backward communities. The grant of scholarships in Middle Schools is under consideration. The formation of a colony in Ambalapuzha at the site specified will be considered. The name of the colony will be decided after the colony is formed. In regard to legislation governing inheritance and succession, the Peishkars' reports as to the general feeling in the community have been obtained. The other points will be considered.]

158. Needs of the Parayas.

MR. KANDAN KUMARAN (*Nominated*), who spoke in Malayalam, said that the economic condition of his community was quite deplorable. Most of them earned their livelihood as coolies of agriculturists. Their income was very low. The economic prosperity of a country depended mainly on the well-being of its labouring classes. Hence the Government should devote their serious attention to the question of the uplift of the backward and depressed classes. The one method by which the economic condition of his community could be improved was by affording them facilities to engage themselves in profitable industries. The Government should establish factories in centres where members of the depressed classes lived in larger numbers, to enable them to get themselves trained in the various modern industries.

The entertainment of the members of his community in public service was another matter which should engage the attention of the Government. It was not necessary that high appointments should be given to them. They would be satisfied with the appointments in the lower ranks of the various departments. Parayas should be appointed as peons in the Excise, Police, Judicial and Revenue Departments as well as in the various Government offices. This would help to a great extent to remove the disabilities of the community and better their condition, in as much as they would get an opportunity to move with educated and refined people. Hence the Government should issue an immediate order to all the heads of departments that preference should be given to the members of the depressed classes in making appointments to the lower ranks of the service. The Government should also deal severely with the officers who do not strictly carry out the above order.

There were no Parayas who possessed high educational qualification. There was not even a single Paraya, who had passed the English School Leaving Examination. There were a few who had passed the Vernacular School Leaving Examination. The one department fit